Cooke accepts exploration job

JSC
People

Doug Cooke has been selected to fill the new position of deputy manager for Exploration in the Advanced Development Office of the Engineering Directorate.

Cooke also will have a dual assignment as manager of the Exploration Project Office. In this role, Cooke will develop and oversee JSC's Lunar and Mars activities. Cooke has been with NASA for more than 23 years. He currently serves as the deputy manager, technical, in the International Space Station Program Office and formerly served as the manager of the Vehicle Office. Prior to joining the SSPO, Cooke held progressively responsible managerial positions in the shuttle and New Initiatives program offices.

Greene takes on space station duties

Jay Greene will move to the International Space Station Program Office where he will serve as deputy manager for technical concerns.

Greene, who currently serves as the manager, Space Shuttle Vehicle Engineering in the Space Shuttle Program, has been with NASA for more than 31 years. He served as the manager of the Orbiter Projects Office; assistant to the director of Engineering; deputy manager of the Space Shuttle Program; chief of the Safety Division; and space shuttle flight director, as well as the deputy associate administrator for Exploration at NASA Headquarters.

Secretaries earn top honors

Two secretaries recently earned the Marilyn J. Bockting Award for Secretarial Excellence.

Patricia Teale of the Earth Science and Solar System Exploration Division was recognized for her ability to support a wide range of responsibilities. As a secretary who supports a division that has constant contact with the public through visitation programs, Teale has been instrumental in continuing a dialogue with visitors and providing them with information.

To aid in this effort, Teale recently designed and prepared an "Information Guide for Visitors to the Earth Science and Solar System Exploration Division," which provides information and contacts at JSC.


Cooke


Greene


Broadfoot


Teale


McAllum

Joan Broadfoot of the Flight Systems Safety and Mission Assurance Division was recognized for her consistent and organizational abilities and administrative skills.

In addition to handling a high volume of correspondence flowing into the division from the space shuttle and space station program offices, Broadfoot has set up systems to simplify the filing of important documents.

Long-time NASA employee dies

Former JSC employee William McAllum died earlier this month of cancer at the age of 63 after more than 30 years of service in the space program.

McAllum began his NASA career in 1962 in the Space Physics Division, working on various projects ranging from Apollo to the International Space Station. Some of those projects include work on the Apollo lunar surface experiments, the Large Area Crop Inventory experiment, developing satellite remote sensing techniques for estimates of world-wide crop production, development of human life sciences flight experiment systems for Spacelab and the initial planning for research on the space station.

After retiring from JSC in 1987, McAllum continued to work for General Electric, McDonnell Douglas and Lockheed Martin until his final retirement in 1995.

Donations may be made to the Jean McAllum Memorial Fund at the JSC Federal Credit Union. Proceeds will be donated to the children's ward at M.D. Anderson Hospital.

Galileo zips by Callisto's cratered face

This week, NASA's Galileo spacecraft flew closer to Jupiter's moon Callisto and its crater-studded surface than any spacecraft has ever come to the outermost of the four big moons orbiting Jupiter.

Data from this flyby and another one next June should help resolve questions about why this seemingly inactive, pockmarked moon is so different from its vastly more active siblings. Its aged appearance is its most distinctive known feature, the oldest, most cratered face of any body yet seen in the solar system.

"With data from this encounter, we'll know more about why Callisto is so different from Jupiter's more lively moons," said Galileo Project Scientist Torrence Johnson of NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

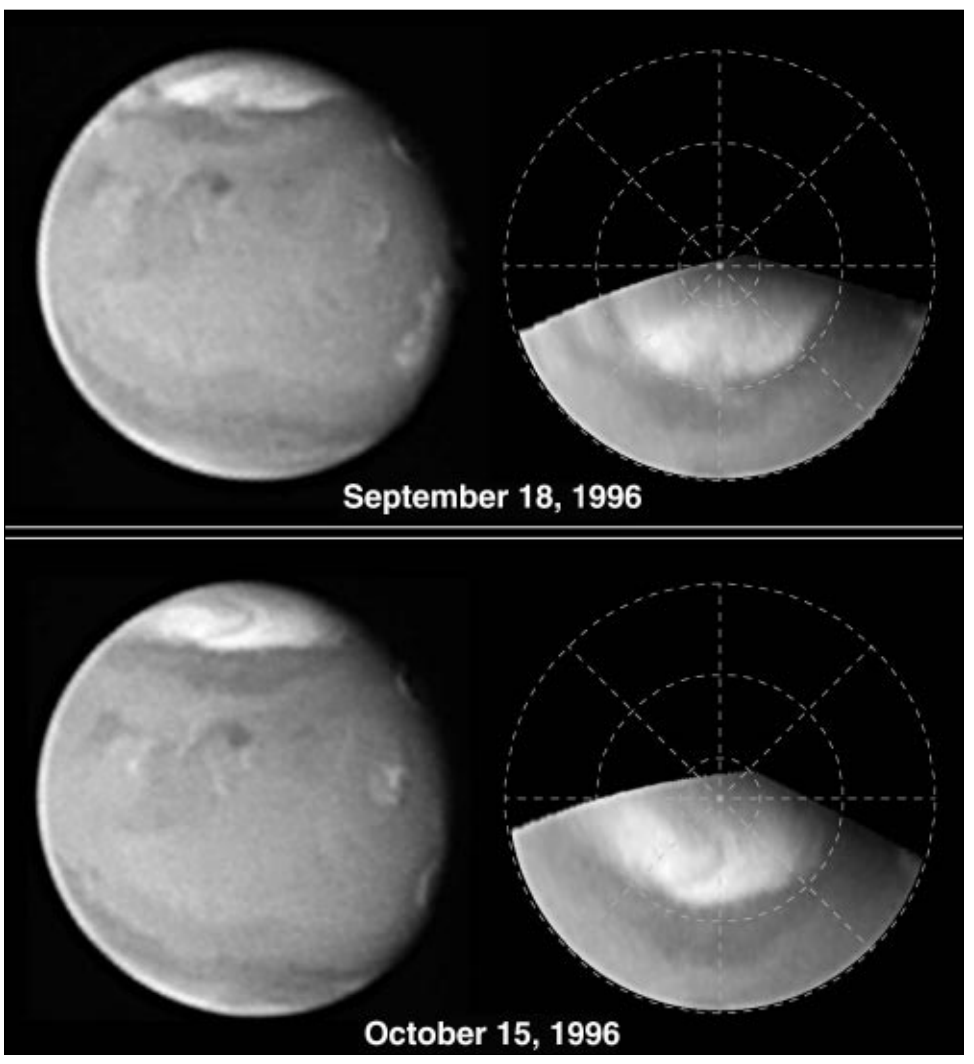
The Callisto flyby marks the start of a new telecommunications capability created to maximize the amount of data that can be received from Galileo. The giant antennas that listen to NASA's exploratory robots in deep space have been augmented with the inauguration of a new link between the agency's Deep Space Network telecommunications stations in California and Australia and Australia's Parkes radio astronomy antenna.

Galileo was launch by the crew of STS-34 in October 1989.

EAA offers spring excursion to Rome

The Employee Activities Association is offering a seven-day trip to Rome, Italy, this coming spring.

The trip, set for March 8-15, includes round-trip airfare, six nights hotel accommodations, continental breakfast daily, airport transfers and a half day sightseeing tour of Rome. Cost is $1,099 per person, double occupancy. A $200 deposit is required to confirm space with final payment due Jan. 8. Deposits may be taken to the Bldg. 11 Exchange Store or mailed to VIP Supertravel at 6300 West Loop South, Suite 360, Bellaire, Texas 77401. For details call Dick McMinimy at x34037.



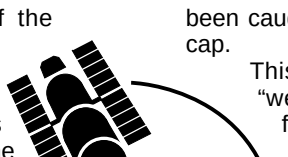
NASA Photo

Two Hubble Space Telescope images of Mars, taken Sept. 18 and Oct. 15, reveal a state-sized dust storm churning near the edge of the Martian north polar cap. Nothing quite like this feature has been seen previously either in ground-based or spacecraft observation. Top: a salmon colored notch in the white north polar cap is a 600-mile long storm. Bottom: though the storm has dissipated by October, a distinctive dust-colored comma-shaped feature can be seen curving across the ice cap.

Hubble spots huge Mars storm

New Hubble Space Telescope images of Mars reveal a Texas-sized dust storm churning near the edge of the Martian north polar cap.

The polar storm probably is a consequence of large temperature differences between the polar ice and the dark regions to the south, which are heated by the springtime Sun. Mars is famous for large, planet-wide dust storms. Smaller storms resembling the one seen here were observed in other regions by Viking orbiters in the late 1970s. However, this is the first time that such an event has been caught near the receding north polar cap.



This kind of advanced planetary "weather report" will be invaluable for aiding preparation for the landing of NASA's Pathfinder spacecraft in July 1997 and the arrival of Mars Global Surveyor orbiter in September 1997. The MGS orbiter began its journey Wednesday, and the Mars Pathfinder is scheduled for launch Dec. 2.

Health Benefits, Thrift Savings seasons open

The annual governmentwide "open season" for both the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program and the Thrift Savings Program begin this fall.

FEHB open season begins Monday and extends through Dec. 9, while the TSP open season begins next Friday and extends through Jan. 31.

During the open month, civil servants may change from one FEHB health plan to another; change between "self only" and "family" enrollment; or enroll in a health plan even if they had declined enrollment.

Additional information will be available at JSC's annual Health Benefits Fair from 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Dec. 4 at the Gilruth Center.

Employees may make a change or enroll either by submitting an SF 2809, Health Benefits Registration Form, to AHZ/Employee Services or by calling Employee Express, a new, 24-hour automated phone system at 1-800-571-3453. Open Season changes, enrollments and plan coverage will be effective Jan. 5.

During TSP open season, eligible employees may begin contributions to the plan; change the amount of their contributions; change the allocation of their contributions; or stop their current contributions.

To sign up, make changes, or stop contributions employees must either complete a TSP election form (TSP-1) and submit it to AHZ/ Employee Services or use Employee Express. The effective date depends upon when changes are submitted. If a change/enrollment is received by Jan. 4, the effective date will be Jan. 5; by Jan. 18, the effective date will be Jan. 19; by Jan. 31, effective by Feb. 2.

For investment guides, forms or more information about either the FEHB or TSP programs, call or visit Employee Services in Bldg. 45, Rm 140, x32681.

Canadian joins STS-85 crew as payload specialist

Canadian Space Agency Astronaut Bjarni Tryggvason will join the crew of STS-85 for *Discovery*'s 11-day mission to study changes in the Earth's atmosphere, scheduled for launch in July 1997.


Tryggvason

Tryggvason will serve as a payload specialist to support the Canadian-sponsored Microgravity Vibration Isolation Mount investigation. MIM is a small double-locker device designed to isolate International Space Station payloads and experiments from disturbances created by jet firings or crew activity. The rest of the STS-85 crew, Commander Curt Brown, Pilot Jeffrey Ashby and Mission Specialists Jan Davis, Robert Curbeam and Stephen Robinson, was assigned in September.

Next Mir crew members train in Star City

(Continued from Page 1)

The Americans in line to follow John Blaha to the Mir space station are all in training at the Gagarin Cosmonaut Training Center in Star City, Russia. Astronaut Jerry Linenger has spent time in the altitude chamber training in the Russian Orlan spacesuit this week, and space walk training in the Russian reduced gravity aircraft. Mike Foale also participated in the altitude chamber training, and received instruction on Mir's communication systems and the Spektr and Priroda modules. Astronauts Wendy Lawrence, Dave Wolf, and Jim Voss have all been spending time in intensive Russian language training, but also had time to taste a variety of Russian foods that will be available for inclusion in their on-orbit diet.

Recently joining them all in Star City were Commander Charlie Precourt and the crew of STS-84, who were there for a week-long training session. Precourt and his crew, who are slated to ferry Foale to Mir next May and come home with Linenger, started simulator training on their rendezvous and docking, working with Mir 23 Commander Vasily Tsibliev and Flight Engineer Alexander Lazutkin.

This week, Commander Bob Cabana and his STS-88 crewmembers, who will undertake the first International Space Station assembly flight in December of next year, also arrived in Russia to watch the first integrated systems testing of the functional cargo block.

Space News Roundup

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Mars Global Surveyor holds for weather

(Continued from Page 1)

of minerals and their distribution. After its survey mission is complete, the spacecraft will be used as a data relay station for signals from other spacecraft that will land on Mars.

The launch will mark the next step in Mars exploration which is to obtain an overview of the entire planet. Surveyor will be followed by Russia's Mars '96 mission Nov. 16, and by NASA's Mars Pathfinder Dec. 2.

NASA-JSC